May 10, 2011

10:50 a.m. 5th period

Western Middle School

Mrs. C’s Classroom

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| Observer’s Notes | Observation |
| The teacher begins every class in this manner, with an announcement and where they should be with the project.  The kids from the earlier class were late from being outside so there is some distraction as they get their stuff and get to the next class.  There seems to be a pattern in many of the groups, that the girls serve as the task masters and organizers and the boys perform the tasks. Check to see if data does support this.  This shows how much the teacher values the technology. | New class starts to walk in.  A boy in group 2 says, “I am the manager.”  Girl says,” I remember you.”  I say, “I remember you too.”  Group 2 boy logs into computer.  Group 6 sits down and opens their computer.  The teacher is trying to take an inventory of where everyone is.  Group 6 is outside. She passes out backpacks to appropriate groups.  A student asks, “How are we supposed to sign in?  I have been gone for two days, so that means I get to use the computer?”  “A couple things before you get started,” the teacher asks for a boy’s assignment and tells them where to put it. The boy says, “I am probably gonna fail this.”  The teacher says to the entire class, “You need to discuss where you are today because next Monday I need a project that shows what your problem is and your proposal.  Even your project description.  You need to map out and discuss where you are today to where you are going to be tomorrow.”  “We need to go on the nature trail,” a girl says to the teacher.   Teacher says they will go out tomorrow and to wear gym shoes.  Kids from last period came in. “Wow, you look dry,” the teacher says. Bob Marley brings in a water sample and puts it in the closet.  She gives the kids who came in direction to go to next class.  The intervention specialists says, “We had a great time; they were angels, especially this one.  They were great.”  She refers to skinny yellow boy.  Group 2 brown-haired girl says to a group member,” Can we ask if we can go off and ask if we could take pictures?”  “Kyle, Kyle where are you at the end of the day?”  They discuss the sample he took and where to keep it.    Group 1 girl ruffles through informational papers.  Striped friendly girl is on Internet on computer. Larger boy is behind her looking at computer. Other boy is sitting there looking at group mates. “Go ask for scissors,” the girl says to the boy. “Scissors,” the boys says and goes to get scissors. Quiet boy suggests doing PSA announcement.  Group 2 They have a computer out and Tall boy is looking at camera screen as he scrolls though.   The intervention specialist says to group 5 glasses girl, “If you have a proposal talk to me and them I will talk to her.”  Group 3 girls have computers. Boys are looking at computer.  Boy asks where the flip cam is. Intervention specialist says, “Some are charging.”  Group 4 girl is on the computer on the Internet. The other boys are looking at camera screen. The other girl is looking in backpack for flip cam. She says, “We don't have a video camera.  Intervention specialist says, “They are charging.”  Group 5 boy is playing with tissues.  Intervention specialist asks if he is ok.  “Did you slam it into a locker?” She tells him to wash it out. Teacher is not in the room.  Group 3 boys says, “It isn't it my job to do this.” The other boy says, “Why don't we just make a video of it?”  They discuss this. He says again, “Where is the flip cam?” He asks if he can take it home.  The intervention specialist says, “I don't know. We will have to ask her and see.”  Group 1 quiet boy raises his hand and looks to the intervention specialist and then drops it. Group 5 boy is alone and messing with the flip cam.  Group 6 is sitting all on one side of the table.  Boys are look at flip cam and girls sit at computer.  Aqua girl is typing and maneuvering a mouse. Group 3 boy asks teacher a question on about camcorder.  The boy continues to ask the teacher if he can take the camera home. “Who is gonna use it? Is it in the bag? You have to promise me you will take the excellent care,” she lectures about the equipment. “This is big for me. You have to take excellent care of it.  You are my guinea pig.  If you drop it in the pond, or lose it.  I will never let anyone take it home again.  You are gonna be the standard that I use from here on out.  Can you handle that responsibility?” He agrees.  “See me at the end of the day,” she says.  12:35 a.m.  Group 5.  The teacher asks, Did you write your proposal?” “Yeah,” a girl sits down. Black hair boy returns from bathroom and sits with group.  Two boys from group 1 go behind the girls on the computer to see what is on the screen.  I can her music coming from the computer.  They are on a Prezi site.  Group 4 girl is on a deforestation site.  Group 5 girl asks about how to write the proposal and how to write a letter to ask for an interview.  The intervention specialist says, “Who else is in your group?”  Teacher talks about how to negotiate and interview time and talked about the girl’s schedule.  “I think she would let you out of math for this, she knows about it.  First period.”  She refers to the job application sheet.   Group 3 is looking at pictures of trash and brings the teacher over to see them.  She says, “Wow.”  Group 1 Teacher asks, “What are you guys doing?” We switched the boy says that a person was not available to help them so they changed their topic.  The teacher agrees.  The leader girl talks about compost and tells what she knows about it.   The teacher said, “You have already done research about compost.  There are certain things that you shouldn't do about compost.” The girl reads from the computer screen. The boy asks questions. Teacher explains how to do the compost.  Boys indicate that he understands. Teacher explains that they need an email for Prezi.com so now, you want to take it.  Group 3 boy visits group 6 boys. The boys are looking at the camera and laughing.  The group 3 boys say, “You may want to log on to one of the desktops to get Prezi, she gives specific directions about Prezi and says the wireless connection is problem. “Create a plan, sketch out on a rough draft.  Here is what we want on one slide.  You could use PowerPoint I know it is not as exciting or wonderful, but it is what it is,” the teacher says.  Group 4 gets their attention with their behavior.  I'd better check on them.  She leans over the girls and talks to the whole group.  Groups 1 says, “No,” very loudly. The teacher says, “Guys, take it easy.”  Group 3 boy says, “Are we gonna do a Prezi or what are we gonna do?”  The intervention specialist leaves the room with group 2 members   Group 1 leader girl asks the intervention specialist question.  She explains their thinking and the teacher agrees.  You have about two minutes before they need to leave.  Leader girl group 1 says who has a computer at their table?"  Boy says, “I do.”  She asks him to do a task.  Groups 2 girl writes in agenda. Kids pack up and much off topic talk. “Are you doing a Prezi?” A friendly girl asks from group 1 to group 3.  Teacher dismisses the class.  The teacher checks on the digital backpacks. One is missing.  Teacher locates it.  They are all stacked nicely by the wall. |
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